

La Grange May 24th, 1840

Dear Sir, - I received your letter of the 19th instant and was glad to learn you was favored with good health. Our family are all well. Huldah is now at Croons - Your unsettled state of mind in regard to the course you are about to pursue hereafter has awakened considerable anxiety in my mind and that of other members of our family. A military life is attended with a thousand evils which are not known in other callings, I fear you look more upon the bright side than you ought to, Is not the life of a soldier a life of suffering and danger? It approaches to near to the life of slavery for your independent mind, it is true it may be limited in its duration, but after a soldier has been in the service a few years ~~it~~ ^{him} in most instances it seems to disqualify a person for any other business. There is ten chances for the morals of a military man to be corrupted where there is one for him who tills the ground. You must know that even an ~~our~~ American army is made up of all classes and conditions of men, but mostly of the discontented and disappointed, although there is some honorable exceptions. You now have the privilege of selecting your friends and associates and shunning those who are not agreeable

La Grange

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Mr. Amos Richards

Lincolnville Carter

Moore

James Richards

go into the army and you make a sacrifice of this great privilege, if you were raised from the ranks you would still be a soldier, still exposed to danger in person and in your morals, and heavy responsibilities resting upon you. A military life would produce distressing solicitude in the minds of your parents, brothers, sisters, and of a still nearer relative (should you form a matrimonial connection) which could all be prevented by your taking a different course. In regard to Mr. Theals farm Pak things \$500 would not be an unreasonable amount for the whole lot but if you think of buying he says you had better come and see for your self before you close any bargain.

Respectfully yours, James Bishop Jr.

5/24/1840